

The Introvert's Guide to Chairing the Department

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Most leadership training programs assume that all leaders are or should be extraverts. In fact, most leadership books suggest a close overlap between the qualities of extraverts and the most desirable traits of leaders, like sociability, accessibility, and support for an open-door policy. But a significant portion of the faculty, staff, and administration in higher education consists of introverts. How are these introverts to succeed in leadership positions? In this workshop, a lifelong and confirmed introvert (who is also a proven academic leader) explains how.

We will provide an inventory that allows participants to assess where they fall on an introversion/extraversion scale. Then we will discuss how introverts can play to their strengths, how and when to use their “learned extraversion” traits, and how to balance their departmental team for maximum impact.

The workshop should appeal to any chair or academic leader who wonders if he or she might be an introvert as well as those who work alongside introverts and want to know how to interact with them most successfully.